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316 314 1 A. Uh-huh. compensation available to physicians. Q. This clause provides for 90 days written 2 2 A. Uh-huh. 3 notice, right? O. There is the Fee For Service, and then 3 A. Yes. the Member Management Fee program, right? Q. Okay. Now, other than the annual A. Uh-huh, yes. 5 updates that we spoke about earlier, how often are Q. Now, the Fee For Service compensation is 6 fee schedules revised, in part or in total? based on the lesser of the physician's charges or 7 7 8 A. Once a year. the amount listed in the fee schedule, minus any 8 Q. So, the annual update is the only 9 applicable copayment, right? 9 10 revision. A. Yes. 10 11 A. Yes. Q. Okay. Now, in what percentage of cases 11 Q. Now, and that update incorporates any 12 are the physicians' bill charges lower than the 12 13 negotiated variations, as well as any overall amount on the fee schedule? 13 increases in reimbursement, right? A. Physicians' billed charges lower than 14 MR. COCO: Objection. 15 the fee schedule? I'm not aware of specific 15 A. I mean, this is standard language in all 16 examples. We have 26,000 physicians in our 16 of our agreements. So, there, again, this is an 17 network. 17 evergreen contract. There is no start and stop 18 Q. Okay. Well, let me ask you to take a 18 date to this. So, if we enter into a negotiation, 19 look at Clause 1.19, which is on Page 4 in 19 they may have different dates and terms, but the 20 connection with what we were talking about. 20 language would be the same. 21 21 A. Uh-huh. Q. It says -- it defines physician payment 22 Q. What happens if a provider disagrees 22 317 315 with a change made by BCBS of Massachusetts to the benefit as, "The lesser of the charge for the covered service or the amount listed on the fee fee schedule? 2 A. What happens if they disagree? I 3 schedule," right? 3 suppose they could let us know. If they don't, A. Uh-huh. 4 they could terminate their contract if they were 5 5 Q. Now, how long has that lesser-of that aggrieved by our rates. methodology been used in BCBS of Massachusetts 6 6 O. Now, sticking with this Section 4.15, we 7 7 contracts? looked earlier at the Member Management Fee A. I don't know how long. I mean, it's --8 8 9 program, right? 9 I don't know specifically. Q. If I wanted to look at claims data, for 10 A. Uh-huh. 10 Q. And that's described further at Appendix 11 example, and figure out which claims were paid at 11 12 the fee schedule rate, which ones were paid at the 12 B to the contract --A. Uh-huh. bill charge, how would I know which is which? 13 13 Q. -- which is at Page 34 of the document. 14 A. You wouldn't. You -- I mean, you 14 15 Do you see that? 15 wouldn't. A. Yeah. Q. So, there would be no way for me to 16 16 Q. Now, are you generally familiar with the 17 17 figure that out? 18 Member Management Fee program? A. No way that I --18 19 A. Yes. 19 MR. COCO: Objection. Q. Okay. Describe it for me. What is that 20 20 A. No. 21 program? 21 Q. Now, if you turn to Clause 4.15.4, A. It is an incentive program that is in 22 22 please, which is on Page 17.

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318 320 place for our primary care physicians that 1 implemented this to today, it's very different. 1 2 essentially can give physicians \$1 to \$3 per 2 Q. Did the name of the program change at 3 member per month based on clinical -- largely 3 one point? clinical HEDIS process measures. 4 A. No. It's been Primary Care Physician 5 Q. You lost me there with HEDIS process 5 Incentive Program. 6 measures. What are those? 6 Q. So, from 2000 to the present time, what 7 A. The measures are things like how many 7 proportion of physicians have participated in the 8 patients of yours were screened for cholesterol? 8 MMF program? 9 How many patients are diabetic? How many patients 9 A. Well, there's - this program are, you know, kids with asthma? And so, there specifically is -- well, there's 3,600 physicians are national standards, physicians need to hit that are in this program out of probably 5,600, those standards, we'll measure performance, and 5,700 primary care physicians. So -- and then 13 then there is an incentive that is reimbursed on what we did is recently in the last few years what 14 top of their Fee For Service. we've done is we've taken these measures and 15 Q. Is this focused on meeting targets in applied them into some of the other contracts that 16 relation to preventative care? you referred to earlier. So, we don't call it the 17 A. Prevent -- largely. Largely. 17 same thing, but we'll build quality and 18 Q. And what are the goals of the MMF 18 preventative measures in all of our contracts. 19 program? 19 So, as a percentage, today, I would say 20 A. The goals are to align physician 20 that this program defined this way and also 21 incentives with ours; essentially to provide, 21 applied in other contracts, represents probably 90 again, in a largely fee-for-service environment. percent of our reimbursement to primary care 319 321 to provide some additional earnings for physicians 1 physicians are in this model. 2 who take care of our patients -- our members. 2 Q. Now, the contract says that Medicare-3 Q. And what was the -- the additional 3 related products are not part of the MMF program. compensation you referred to that's available, is 4 4 Why were those products excluded? that -- how is that calculated? 5 A. Why were they -- I'm sorry. 6 A. How is it calculated? It's calculated 6 Q. Why were those products excluded from on an annual basis, and it's paid out twice a 7 the --8 year. 8 A. This product only applies to our HMO 9 Q. Is it a flat dollar sum --9 book of business. 10 A. Yes. 10 Q. Was there a strategic reason why it was 11 Q. -- related to -- if you meet the target, 11 limited to the HMO book of business? 12 you get it, if you don't, you don't. .12 A. I don't know that there was a strategic 13 A. That's right. 13 reason. I just think we limited it to this 14 Q. What faction of providers participated 14 product line. We -- no, there's no strategic 15 in the MMF program? 15 reason. 16 A. What time frame are we talking about? 16 Q. The contract also describes two accounts 17 Q. Let's start with -- for what time period 17 that were held for purposes of the MMF program: 18 are you aware of the MMF program having been in 18 The primary care physician account, the primary 19 place? 19 care team account. 20 A. The program was essentially created in 20 A. Correct. 21 1999/2000, and we began paying physicians in 2000, 21 Q. Are you familiar with those accounts?

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Well, they're not accounts.

22 and we pay physicians today. But it's -- when we

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324 322 MR. COCO: Objection. 1 Q. Well --1 A. I have no idea. We are -- on an annual 2 2 A. They're terms. basis, for purposes of what we call HEDIS or the 3 Q. Right. Health Employer Data Information Set, we may be A. Yes. 4 asked to verify information in the physician's Q. That's a better way of putting it. What 5 6 medical record, and so, we are -- or some other are those -- what are those, the primary care 6 group could be asked to pull medical records, so 7 physician account and the primary care team it happens. I don't know when, how often, or the 8 9 number. A. At the time it -- and we've since 9 O. Pursuant to this clause, would BCBS of eliminated this -- the operations of it this way, 10 10 11 Massachusetts have access to the providers' but essentially, what it meant is that an 11 financial records? 12 individual primary care physician was responsible 12 A. No. This is limited to clinical. for services up to a certain pool or threshold, 13 13 Q. Would this include information on drug 14 and then dollars were then rolled into a group-14 15 purchases by the physician? level account, if you will, so that the concept of 15 16 A. No. primary care team, for lack of a better word. 16 Q. Have you ever obtained or received a 17 When the program was -- when the program 17 legal opinion as to whether or not BCBS can access was created, I think we contemplated care being 18 doctors' drug acquisition records pursuant to this 19 provided at an individual level, care being 19 20 clause? 20 provided at a group level, but all of our payments 21 MR. COCO: And without saying what that are made at an individual level. 21 opinion might be, you can answer yes or no. 22 This specifically only applies to stop 325 323 A. Well, the answer is, I haven't asked, loss or services in excess of \$1,500. 1 and again, this is in the section called "Medical 2 Q. Let me ask you to turn now to Clause 2 Management," so there would be no reason for me to 4.12, which is on Page 11. 3 3 go down that line of thinking in this section. A. Uh-huh. 4 This is a really narrow, defined purpose for this O. It's "Compliance with the medical language. management and quality program." Do you see that? 6 7 Q. And you're testifying based on your own 7 A. Yeah. 8 understanding of the terms of that clause. Q. All right. The provision says, "The 8 group shall allow the Plan to inspect and copy 9 A. Yes. Q. Section 4.12.4, "Primary Care Physician 10 10 member records and shall comply with the Plan's 11 Utilization Levels." 11 request to provide copies of records. All 12 A. Yes. information, records, and documents required shall O. It says, "The Plan shall monitor on a be provided within a reasonable period of time and 13 regular basis utilization levels of members." Is without cost to the plan." Do you see that? 14 this also a standard clause in all of the 15 15 A. Yeah. contracts BCBS enters into with physicians? 16 16 Q. What fraction of actual signed contracts 17 A. I believe it is. included this term? O. What's the goal of monitoring physician 18 A. This is standard language in all of our 18 utilization levels? 19 19 A. This is standard language so that in the 20 O. How often did Blue Cross Blue Shield of 20 Massachusetts access member records pursuant to 21 event that we see a particular area where we're concerned about utilization, we have an 22 this clause?

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326 328 opportunity to notify the physician of that. 1 result of the utilization levels? 2 Q. What sort of concern would pique your 2 A. Not to my knowledge, no. 3 interest? 3 Q. Clause 4.13.1 now, this says that, "If 4 MR. COCO: Objection. the Plan requires copies or information from 5 A. No idea, because I've never implemented 5 medical records or reports or patient account 6 this section, so I couldn't tell you what it would information maintained by the group," then 6 7 7 provides the reason why that could be sought. 8 Q. Do you have an understanding as to who "These shall be provided by the group promptly and 9 performs utilization level of review pursuant to 9 without cost." Do you see that clause? 10 these contracts? 10 A. Yes. 11 A. It would be the Plan, capital P. So, it 1i Q. When the clause refers to "patient 12 could be any area in the company that could do 12 account information," what information is included 13 that. 13 within that? 14 Q. I understand it's the Plan. My question 14 A. This is a standard phrase. It's meant 15 was, do you know who does it? 15 to include -- (Witness reviews document.) 16 A. Not specifically, no. There is no --Essentially, the medical record. It could be the 17 there are no people in the company specifically 17 claim record. I mean, this is a generic term. looking at -- I mean, there's lots of people 18 It's not defined, and it's not meant to be looking at lots of different utilization in lots 19 specific. It's meant to include anything that 20 of different areas. There's not really one area 20 could be patient account information if we needed 21 tasked with that work. 21 to pull it. 22 Q. Well, does BCBS of Massachusetts 22 Q: And what does "authorized research" mean 327 329 monitor, on a regular basis, utilization levels of in that clause? 2 members pursuant to this clause? 2 A. Where are you looking? Oh, I see it. 3 A. Not at a -- not at a detailed -- not at 3 Okay. (Witness reviews document.) I don't know. 4 a physician level. We look at it, as I think I I haven't really focused on that sentence. 4 said earlier, we're interested in looking at 5 Q. Clause 7.2.1, please. 6 utilization patterns on a cross-service category 6 A. Say again. 7 basis. What this language allows us to do is that 7 Q. 7.2.1, please, which is on Page 28. in the event we decided to go down to the 8 8 A. Yeah. 9 physician level, we have the ability to do that. 9 Now, this provides for termination 10 We don't typically do that. -without cause on 90 days notice by the provider or 10 11 Q. I'm sorry. What was the last part of 11 BCBS of Massachusetts, right? 12 that? 12 A. Correct. 13 A. We don't typically do that. 13 Q. Now, what -- is this -- is this also a 14 Q. The section continues, "The Plan may 14 standard clause that's contained in all of the 15 terminate the group primary care physician's 15 BCBSMA contracts? participation in accordance with this agreement if 16 16 A. It is. such utilization levels are deemed by the Plan to 17 Q. Are you aware of any instances where be outside of acceptable levels." Do you see that 18 BCBS of Massachusetts has terminated provider 19 at the end of the clause? 19 contracts pursuant to this clause? 20 A. I do, yes. 20 A. Which clause, with or without cause? 21 Q. Now, has BCBS of Massachusetts ever 21 Q. Without cause, the clause we're in now.

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A. I'm not aware of. There may have been

terminated a physician from the network as a

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332 330 instances for peer review if a physician -- I'm program? sure there were. Physicians lose their license or A. Correct. 2 3 O. What were the differences between the they're convicted of a felony is grounds for immediate termination, and I know that's occurred. MMF program and the PCPIP program? 4 A. The MMF program was created in the '90s, 5 and it was -- it was probably more of a cost-based Q. Well, that would be termination for a 6 6 program for -- it was an incentive program, but it cause, wouldn't it? 7 A. I'm sorry. Without a cause? Have we --8 was based more on cost, less on quality. We 8 really didn't implement it well. It was very 9 I'm not aware that we've terminated a physician 9 difficult to explain. It was not -- it was hard 10 without cause. 10 to create reporting. And so, we transitioned off 11 Q. Are you aware of any instances in which 11 BCBS of Massachusetts has terminated a physician's of that to this program, the PCPIP program. 12 Q. What do you mean when you say, "It was contract for reasons other than credentialing-13 13 based more on cost"? 14 14 related reasons? A. It was an attempt for us to have 15 15 A. I'm not aware. No. physicians be more aware of the cost of services, 16 O. Now, let's take a look at another 16 but it wasn't effective, because it just -- we had 17 a grand idea for the program, but it really was (Group Primary Care Physician 18 18 19 not effective. Agreement, 2000, marked Exhibit Fox 013.) 19 Q. So, how did the program change? 20 20 Now, this is another boilerplate 21 A. We essentially eliminated the cost 21 template, right? component of the program and really focused more 22 22 A. Correct. 333 331 on quality and quality-based measures, process Q. This is from 2000? 1 measures, as I defined before. Whereas, the other 2 2 A. Correct. program looked to measure a physician's Q. Now, this contract indicates that the 3 3 performance against budgets and to reconcile and Physician Incentive Program was changed to a do things that were difficult to do at the 5 program called the Primary Care Physician 5 individual or group level. Incentive Program or PCIP? 6 6 Q. Did the goal remain to incentivize 7 A. PCPIP. No, that should have been the 7 preventative care? 8 same as this one, yeah, same thing. O. Is the -- well, in the previous contract 9 The goal is to incent preventative care, 10 10 we looked at, there was a different name to the yeah. Q. And that remained a goal, even through 11 11 incentive program. 12 the --A. Oh, okay. Yeah. Member Management Fee 12 A. Correct. program. I understand. Okay. The Member 13 O. - though the logistics of the program 14 Management Fee program was a program in place, and 14 as I mentioned to you, then -- I thought that was 15 changed? A. Correct. 16 16 actually what I was looking at, because the language is largely the same. But we actually 17 Q. Now, is there a similar incentive program in place for specialists? created a new program in 2000 -- was created in 18 '99, we changed it in 2000 -- to be the Primary 19 A. No, there's not. Q. So, both the MMF and the PCPIP are only 20 Care Physician Incentive Program, which is the 20 specific to primary care physicians? 21 program that's in effect today. 22 A. That's correct. Q. So, it was a successor to the previous

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334 336 Q. Let's look at one more contract. 1 1 A. Again, we changed the language in the 2 (Group primary care physician boilerplate so that any new physician would be agreement, 2002, marked Exhibit Fox 014.) 3 subject to this language. We would send -- on 4 Q. Now, this is yet another template that type of change, we would have sent a notice 5 contract, right? out to the entire network informing them that, 6 A. The template is different. I mean, while we could take the position that their other 7 you'll see the footers change over time as new 7 contract is still in place, because the law provisions come in and out, but we do not repaper doesn't predate their contracts, operationally, 9 our network, so, the contract stays on the that didn't make any sense; that we were going to contract they're on. So, there have definitely 10 essentially treat all physicians the same way and, been versions throughout the years. We just carry you know, operationalize it exactly as it is here. forward the boilerplate language. And if a law 12 12 MR. MANGI: This is a good breaking 13 changes or if a covered term changes, we'll just 13 point. Why don't we take a few minutes. 14 amend it. 14 THE WITNESS: Okay. 15 Q. This one's from 2002, right? 15 (Non Fee Services Comparison marked 16 A. Yes. 16 Exhibit Fox 015.) 17 Q. Okay. Now, if you take a look at Clause 17 Q. Familiarize yourself with that document, 18 7.2.1, please, which is on Page 24. 18 please, Mr. Fox and let me know when you're done. 19 A. Uh-huh. 19 MR. COCO: Do you have an extra copy? 20 Q. This states, "This agreement may not be 20 MR. MANGI: Yeah, sorry. terminated without cause at any time by the Plan 21 A. I have not seen this before. So, I'm or the group." not sure what it is, but what year -- oh, 1999. 335 337 1 A. Correct. Okay. 1 2 Q. Now, that's a change from the previous 2 Q. Have a look at the second page of the 3 template we looked at that provided for 3 document. Do you see a table there entitled 4 termination without cause, right? "Milton Hospital"? 5 A. Yes, as a result of managed care reform 5 A. Yes. 6 in the State of Massachusetts, the law changed 6 Q. And you see there's an entry for 7 preventing termination without cause between plans 7 "Redbook AWP," do you see that? and providers. So, we had to amend our 8 8 A. First column, yeah. 9 boilerplates accordingly. 9 Q. And then there's an entry for 10 Q. Which legal requirement specifically are 10 "Acquisition," which is listed as "1999 AWP minus 11 you referring to? 11 35 percent." 12 A. I don't know the chapter and verse. 12 A. I see that. 13 It's Managed Care Reform Act. I don't know what Q. Now, in 1999, Blue Cross Blue Shield of 13 14the -- what it is specifically. 14 Massachusetts understood in this document that 15 Q. Is it your understanding that this is a Milton Hospital was acquiring these drugs at AWP 15 16 Massachusetts statute? 16 minus 35 percent, right? 17 A. It is. 17 MR. COCO: Objection. 18 Q. And that mandated this change? 18 A. I've never seen this document, so I'm 19 A. That did. 19 not going to agree to that, 'cause I don't know 20 Q. Did all Blue Cross Blue Shield of 20 21 Massachusetts preexisting contracts also become 21 Q. How do you interpret this document?

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MR. COCO: Objection.

subject to change as a result?

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340 338 A. I'm not going to interpret it, because I have no understanding whatsoever what could 1 possibly be meant by the word "acquisition" in honestly don't know -- prior to today, I have not 2 seen this. So, I read it. I'm reading the same 3 this document? 3 thing you're reading. 4 MR. COCO: Objection. 4 5 A. I have not ever seen this and --5 Q. Well, you understand that you're testifying here as a corporate representative. 6 O. That wasn't my --6 7 A. - it would not be in the scope of my 7 A. I do. knowledge. So, no, I don't know what they're Q. So, my question to you is, as a 8 meaning by "acquisition." I mean, I could assume corporate representative, what is your 9 9 10 lots of things, but I wouldn't assume anything. understanding of what this Blue Cross Blue Shield 10 of Massachusetts document is listing? 11 Q. Okay. Again, just so we're clear. I'm 11 not asking you what your job responsibilities are. MR. COCO: Objection. What is this top 12 12 document in respect to and what are you asking him I'm not asking if you've ever seen this document 13 13 before. My question is, as you look at it now, is 14 as a corporate representative? 14 it your testimony that you have no idea what's O. You can answer the question. 15 15 meant by the use of the word "Acquisition" in the MR. COCO: No, I'm asking you for a 16 16 17 second column of this table? clarification. 17 A. Why I'm saying no is because this is a 18 MR. MANGI: I'm referring to Categories, 18 19 hospital, and you know, my knowledge or 19 2, 3, 7, and 8, the ones that you designated. 20 understanding on a physician side, I don't know 20 MR. COCO: I do not believe that that how it could possibly apply on the hospital side. 21 question is within the scope, and therefore, I I don't work with hospital pricing. So, I'm not object to your characterization that he is 341 339 going to assume. I don't know what that testifying with respect to that question as a 1 2 "Acquisition" means. corporate representative. But you may answer. 2 Q. If hospitals were getting discounts on 3 3 Q. Go ahead. You can answer. their purchases of drugs, wouldn't you be 4 A. Yeah, I -- again, I'm not in the 4 interested in knowing that because it may impact 5 professional audit department, don't have what discounts physicians can get on drugs? 6 responsibility for it. I see the columns on the 7 MR. COCO: Objection. paper, but again, I've not ever seen this. So, I A. No, I wouldn't be interested at all. 8 don't know who would have produced it or what 9 The physician reimbursement and hospital their knowledge of this would be. I don't want to reimbursement are not the same. 10 10 put myself in their shoes. Q. I'm talking about acquisition. Wouldn't Q. Now, as a matter of simple mathematics, 11 11 the fact that hospitals are getting discounts on 12 you can see that the first column and second acquiring drugs be relevant to you? Would you be column, there's a difference of 35 percent between 13 13 interested to know that because it may reflect on 14 14 them. the fact that physicians could also be getting 15 15 MR. COCO: Objection. A. It might be simple math for you. It is discounts in acquiring drugs? 16 16 not for me. So, I see that there is a different 17 MR. COCO: Objection. A. Not to me, no. This is not -- you're in price in the column. Whether that's 35 percent or 18 18 a really narrow area of services. I would not sit 19 19 10 percent, I don't know. in a room and have dialog about acquisition cost. 20 Q. Let me ask you to assume that the 20 And so, no, I would say it wouldn't occur to me, 21 difference is 35 percent, which is what the

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document suggests. Is it your testimony that you

because I don't recall having those conversations

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342 344 in general. 1 A. I know I haven't seen them. I don't 2 Q. So, even if others at BCBS knew that 2 know if other people have or not. I know I 3, hospitals were getting discounts in the region of 3 haven't. 4 AWP minus 35 percent on certain drugs, that would 4 Q. Now, this is an extract from a document 5 be of no interest to you as someone who works in 5 named "POS Outcomes." And it says, "It's the 6 the provider relations department. 6 newsletter for pharmacy benefit plan manager," 7 MR. COCO: Objection. 7 dated January 2002. Do you see that? 8 That would be of no interest. 8 A. I see that. 9 Q. And indeed, if hospitals were getting 9 Q. Are you familiar with this publication? 10 other kinds of discounts or discounts at different 10 I've never seen it before. rates, none of that would be of interest to you, 11 11 Q. Now, draw your attention to the second 12 because these are hospitals and you're concerned column, and the last paragraph, second sentence of 13 only with physicians. that states, "Physicians buy injectable drugs at 14 MR. COCO: Objection. lower costs than the charges submitted to health 15 A. Yeah, that's accurate. plans for reimbursement." Do you see that? 15 16 (BCBSMA-AWP 00047 marked Exhibit 16 A. I see that. 17 Fox 016.) 17 Q. Do you agree or disagree with that 18 Q. Have you ever seen this document before? 18 statement? 19 A. I have not ever seen this. No, I don't 19 MR. COCO: Objection. 20 even know where it comes from. So, I don't know. 20 A. As I said earlier, I have -- again, I'm 21 No. 21 reading this for the first time. I don't know. 22 Q. Do you know whether or not any analysis It's not my -- it's not my understanding 343 345 was performed at BCBS of Massachusetts when 1 Q. So, you disagree with it? 2 contemplating whether or not to move from 95 to 2 A. No, I'm not agreeing or --3 100 percent of AWP? 3 MR. COCO: Objection. 4 A. I haven't been involved in those A. -- disagreeing. It just says physicians 5 conversations, so, no. buy injectable drugs at lower cost. I have --6 MR. MANGI: Okay. prior to today, have no data to understand if 7 (BCBSMA-AWP 10002-10005 marked 7 that's true or not. I just don't --8 Exhibit Fox 017.) 8 Q. Well, you say -- I'm sorry. Were you 9 Q. Now, we'll turn to Exhibit Fox 017 in 9 done? just a minute. Let me ask you a more general 10 A. Yes. 11 question first. You recall when we looked earlier Q. You said, "That's not my understanding." 11 12 today at the 1992 OIG report? My follow-up was asking what do you mean when you 12 13 A. Today. I saw it today, yes. say, "That's not my understanding"? 13 14 Q. And you recall we also looked at a 1996 14 MR. COCO: Objection. 15 Barron's article, right? 15 A. What's the -- now I don't even know what 16 A. Yes. 16 you're asking me. 17 Q. And I believe one of your objections to 17 Q. I read out this sentence, and I asked the questions I was posing regarding those you if you agreed with it. You said, "That's not documents was that -- being they had not been --19 my understanding." What I'm asking is, are you you had not seen them before, and you didn't know 20 saying that you have an understanding that's whether anyone at BCBS of Massachusetts had seen 21 different from what's stated here, or are you them before, right? saying that you have no opinion as to whether

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348 346 an opinion on that really. 1 that's true or not? Q. Now, earlier in the day you said you A. Yes. So, now I understand the question. 2 understood AWP as a sticker price. Do you recall No, I have no opinion. I read the statement, but 3 that testimony? 4 I have no opinion on it. 5 Q. Let me ask you to turn to the last page A. Yeah. 5 MR. COCO: Objection. 6 of that document. You see that this newsletter 6 Q. Now, is that a phrase that you came up was addressed to Gary Shramek, who was a director 7 7 with in response to my question, or is that of pharmacy programs at Blue Cross Blue Shield of 8 9 something you've heard elsewhere? Massachusetts? 9 A. No. Actually, I came up with it as you 10 10 A. That's what it says, yeah. 11 asked the question. I was trying of think of my Q. Do you know Mr. Shramek? 11 own -- what would I refer to it as? But it's not A. I don't know him personally. I know who 12 something I've heard and certainly not something 13 he was, sure. I've heard out in the field or anything like that. Q. Is he still the director of pharmacy 14 14 Q. Well, help me understand your thought 15 15 programs? 16 process there. What were you thinking about when A. No. 16 you used that -- when you came up with that Q. When did he retire or move to a 17 18 analogy? different position? 18 A. Just the fact that that's a number. 19 A. Within the last few years. 19 20 It's posted. It's an index. It's a reference. I O. Did he retire or move to a different 20 suppose I could have just said it's a reference. 21 position? 22 I think a sticker price or something to that A. No, he didn't retire. He left. Left 22 349 347 respect, just for me, it's more of an the company. I don't know what he's doing now. I 2 understanding of what it is. just know he left the company. 2 Q. And when you say, "sticker price," were 3 3 Q. Is the fact that the director of you analogizing to the sticker price on a car? 4 pharmacy program at Blue Cross Blue Shield of A. Yeah, I think I did. Again, just as the Massachusetts received information in 2002 that 5 fact that that may or may not be the final price. physicians buy injectable drugs at lower cost than 6 Q. Now, carrying that analogy forward, when the charges submitted for reimbursement, is that 7 you purchase a car, I believe you said -- you something that would have any bearing on BCBS's 8 referred to the fact that, well, there is a determination of what it reimburses? sticker price, and then there is an invoice price, 10 MR. COCO: Objection. 10 and then there's the real price. Do you recall 11 A. Just because it was received doesn't 11 mean it was read. I get hundreds of these 12 that? MR. COCO: Objection. communications a month, and I don't read half of 13 13 A. Yeah, I think I used that, yeah. 14 14 them. Q. Now, when you're buying a car, the real 15 Q. Okay. If it was read. 15. price will vary from car to car, right? 16 A. I wouldn't --16 MR. COCO: Objection. 17 17 MR. COCO: Objection. A. I really wouldn't know. I don't know 18 A. I'm not here to talk about car 18 manufacturers and I'm not an expert in that field. how important this is in the bigger scheme of 19 19 20 I only know about the cars I buy, and I'm not a things, and I have no idea what Gary would or very good negotiator so --21 wouldn't have been thinking. Gary wasn't involved Q. As an adult in the American car-loving in meetings that I was in, so I couldn't give you 22

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350 352 society, the -- we can certainly -- though we A. Again, I don't -- if you want to talk 2 haven't agreed on much today, we can agree that about cars, we can talk about cars. I don't see 3 cars have different prices, right? what that has to do with --4 A. They may. 4 Q. Let's talk about cars. 5 Q. A Mercedes has a different price from a 5 MR. COCO: Well, there are --6 Skoda. 6 Q. You can note your objection. 7 A. I would agree with that. 7 MR. COCO: Even though in depositions Q. Now, for all cars there is the analogy 8 8 there are objections to relevance -we talked about where there is a sticker price and 9 9 MR. MANGI: That's correct. There are. 10 then there is an invoice price and then there is a 10 So, let's go ahead. 11 real price, right? 11 MR. COCO: -- there does become a point MR. COCO: Objection. 12 where you are so far afield that you're outside 12 13 A. There is -- I understand. the scope of discovery. 13 14 Q. Okay. So, you agree with that. MR. MANGI: We're not. We're following 14 15 MR. COCO: Objection. 15 an analogy the witness came up with. You've made 16 A. I agree that there is a price and then your objections. That's fine. Now I'd like an 17 there is a final price, and how you get from one 17 answer, please. 18 to the other is not relevant. 18 MR. COCO: I'm going to put my objection 19 Q. And if you were buying a car, you'd get 19 on the record --20 from one to the other through a process of 20 MR. MANGI: You already did that. 21 negotiation, right? 21 MR. COCO: -- which is that, to the 22 A. Among other means. 22 extent that you're trying to then take this 351 353 1 MR. COCO: Objection. analogy for an improper purpose, that I believe 2 Q. As well as research? 2 that is outside the scope of discovery and 3 MR. COCO: Objection. 3 improper use of deposition time. 4 A. It depends what you mean by "research." 4 MR. MANGI: Okay. Now, respectfully, I 5 Q. Well, to use the example you gave 5 would ask that you make your objections and not 6 earlier, you would try to find out what the 6 make speaking objections. 7 invoice price for the car is, right? 7 Q. Now, let's carry forward the analogy 8 MR. COCO: Objection. we're discussing. When you're buying a Mercedes 9 A. Today, I probably would. and you're negotiating a price, you may be able to 10 Q. Go to Edmonds.com. Now, for different negotiate a different discount off the sticker cars, the Mercedes versus the Kia, the 11 price than you'd be able to negotiate for a Kia, relationship between the real price that you end 12 right? up with and the sticker price will vary from car 13 MR. COCO: I don't mean to interrupt, 14 to car, right? but can I just have a standing object to the 15 MR. COCO: Objection. wholesale car analogy so I don't have to interrupt 15 16 A. I don't know. If it does, it -- you 16 you? know it shouldn't vary by all that much or else it 17 17 MR. MANGI: Sure. Done. would be irrelevant. 18 18 A. Say again. 19 Q. But it will vary because you're 19 MR. MANGI: Would you mind repeating my 20 individually negotiating your purchase price, 20 question. 21 right? 21 (Question read back.) MR. COCO: Objection. 22 A. I suppose.

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356 354 sticker price and then there is a different price Q. Okay. Be able to negotiate a certain 1 percentage off on your Mercedes and a different 2 that's the real price? 2 MR. COCO: Objection. 3 3 percentage off on your Kia? 4 A. I think I was trying to say that AWP is A. I suppose. 4 the price, and I -- I'm saying that that's the 5 5 Q. It will vary from car to car, from buyer price. That's the price that's posted. That's 6 to buyer, from dealer to dealer, right? 6 the price that we're seeing, and that there could A. The price of the car may vary, but the 7 7 be differences between that and what's ultimately relationship between the price of the car and what 8 8 paid by us to the physician. I'm not getting into 9 I pay, though the numbers may be different, the 9 the -- I'm not getting into all of the 10 relationship between them shouldn't be different. 10 granularities between how it gets to the physician Q. Okay. What should the relationship be? 11 11 and how -- I'm just talking about what we 12 A. There should be some relationship 12 reimburse them in relation to what they're being between that -- if there's no relationship between 13 13 reimbursed from the drug manufacturer. 14 the sticker price and what I pay, then what's the 14 Q. So, like the sticker price, the AWP point of having a sticker price on the car in the 15 15 16 price is a starting point or a benchmark from 16 first place? which you discount the amount you're going to pay 17 Q. It's a starting point for negotiations, 17 in reimbursement to physicians. 18 18 isn't it? MR. COCO: Objection. 19 A. Does it say it on the sticker price -- I 19 A. Not necessarily, because it's not -have not walked into a car dealership where they 20 20 say, Here's the starting point of our negotiation. 21 again, our methodology is AWP minus 5 percent. 21 Q. That's the discount --22 It's the advertised price of the car. 357 355 1 A. We don't have AWP minus 5, 10, 15, 30. Q. Right. I mean, they don't see that, 1 It's one number. So it's -- if the numbers are because otherwise, it would be difficult for them 2 different, then it would make the standard of 3 3 to negotiate. But my question is, isn't it 4 comparison very difficult to -understood by you, as a buyer and by the dealer Q. Let me ask you this: If physicians 5 that the sticker price is a starting point for 5 actually purchase drugs at AWP and you reimbursed 6 6 negotiation? 7 all physicians at 95 percent of AWP, wouldn't all A. Well, if you use -- want to take the car 7 physicians be losing money? analogy, on my car I paid the sticker price for my 8 9 MR. COCO: Objection. car. Maybe I'm a fool, or maybe that's the car I 9 A. I guess you'd have to ask them. 10 wanted, and there was no negotiation. So, if 10 Q. Well, isn't that obvious in -you're asking me to take that analogy, I'd say in 11 12 MR. COCO: Objection. my case, the sticker price became the price I 12 13 A. It's not obvious to me. paid. And there was no difference, and there was Okay. If all physicians purchased drugs 14 no difference between the sticker price, the 14 at AWP and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts 15 invoice price, and what I paid. 15 reimbursed them at 95 percent of AWP, which is 5 16 Q. Okay. Now, let's get back to when you 16 17 percent less than what they are paying to buy made this analogy to the sticker price to drugs. 17 their drugs, how can -- how would there be any 18 18 A. Uh-huh. 19 other conclusion, looking at that, other than the Q. For a car, as you said, there is the 19 20 fact that they're losing money? sticker price, there is the invoice price, and 21 MR. COCO: Objection. there is the real price. By analogy were you A. Because we pay different amounts for 22 22 saying that for drugs, similarly, the AWP is the

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358 360 1 services. When you say there is a relationship and that 2 Q. I'm focusing on the drugs only. relationship should be reasonable, the whole 3 A. And I'm saying that I'm not drawing that understanding that you just described, how long analogy, because physicians don't get reimbursed have you had that understanding of AWP? 5 from health plans their charges. And so, are they 5 MR. COCO: Objection. 6 losing money every time they see one of our 6 A. I think I answered it this afternoon. I 7 members, because we're paying them at a rate 7 mean, I don't -- I don't have dates. I don't that's different than their charges? So, I can't know. It's just been my understanding. 9 follow your analogy, because I don't have a basis 9 Q. Has it been your understanding since you to compare it on. 10 10 worked in this area? 11 Q. Are you saying that one would have to 11 A. My understanding since I've worked in 12 consider the overall reimbursement, and that one 12 this area is that we reimburse physician drugs on aspect of reimbursement could offset another, such 13 an AWP model. The AWP model then changed to 14 as service reimbursement could offset drug different percentages. I did not have a detailed 15 reimbursement? 15 working knowledge of the relationship between all 16 MR. COCO: Objection. 16 of those prices. That's what I'm saying. 17 A. No, I don't think I said that. 17 Q. And now, when you use the word 18 Q. Well, you said you also have to look at 18 "inflated," referring to AWP, how does that relate 19 services. What did you mean by that? 19 to the sticker price analogy that you presented --20 MR. COCO: Objection. 20 MR. COCO: Objection. 21 A. No. What I'm saying is that when you 21 Q. -- earlier today? asked the statement, wouldn't you agree that a 22 A. I don't know if it -- I don't know how 359 361 physician is losing money, what I'm saying is I 1 it does relate other than the price. Well, again, 2 couldn't -- I have a basis of comparison, because 2 I think, as I said earlier, maybe "inflated" isn't 3 in a separate set of circumstances, physicians 3 the right word. 4 have services rendered to their patients, they 4 Q. Okay. What is the right word? 5 bill insurance companies, and they receive a rate. 5 A. That AWP is an index. And it's an index 6 The rate is not their billed charge. The rate is 6 from the industry that we use. something less. But there is an understanding 7 Q. What do you mean when you say, "index"? 8 that there is some relationship between the rate 8 A. It is a price point. It is something and what they're billing. So, again, I mean, that is taken -- I take AWP as -- AWP as coming there is not this detail level of -- I'm not at from the industry, and that's what we use. 10 11 this incredibly detailed level that you are, There's not conversation that I'm involved in 12 because it's not part of a -- I don't have these where -- let's break down what we mean by AWP. I 13 day-to-day conversations. mean, I'm not in those conversations. AWP is a 14 Q. So, you're saying there is some 14 number. Whether it's the right number, whether 15 relationship but you're unable to define that 15 it's high, low, it's the number that I have as a relationship other than to say it should be 16 16 reference point. Whether I believe it's right or 17 reasonable. 17 wrong or whether physicians have referred to it in 18 A. Yes. 18 different ways, AWP is the index. 19 MR. COCO: Objection. 19 Q. So, whether it's high, low, or whether -20

20

21

22

- however the industry has referred to it, that's

MR. COCO: Objection.

not relevant to you?

A. It should be reasonable.

22 also earlier in the day -- well, withdraw that.

Q. And when you referred to AWP as inflated

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	362		364	1
1	A. Prior to today, no.	1	Commonwealth of Massachusetts	
2	MR. MANGI: I have no further questions.	2	Middlesex, ss.	
3	MS. ROWE: No.	3	I, P. Jodi Ohnemus, Notary Public in and for the Commonwealth	۱
4	MR. COCO: Just one. Hopefully, just	4	of Massachusetts, do hereby certify that there came before me on the	
5	one.	5	8th day of March, 2006, the deponent herein, who was duly sworn by me;	$\ $
6		6	that the ensuing examination upon oath of the said deponent was reported	
7	EXAMINATION	7	stenographically by me and transcribed into typewriting under my	1
8	BY MR. COCO:	8	direction and control; and that the within transcript is a true record of	
9	Q. Following up on sort of this general	9	the questions asked and answers given at said deposition.	
10	topic, during your deposition testimony today at	10	I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am neither attorney nor counsel for, nor	
11	various points you've been asked to consider	11	related to or employed by any of the parties to the action in which this	۱
12	specific percentages relating acquisition costs	12	deposition is taken; and, further, that I am not a relative or employee of	
13	and AWP. Do you recall that testimony?	13	any attorney or financially interested in the outcome of the action.	
14	A. Yes, I do.	14	IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my	
15	Q. Prior to today, had you considered this	15	seal of office this 8th day of March, 2006, at Waltham.	
16	topic in terms of any specific numbers or	16		
17	percentage ratios?	17		
18	A. Not not ever.	18	P. Jodi Ohnemus, RPR, RMR, CRR	
19	MR. COCO: That's all.	19	Notary Public,	۱
20	MR. MANGI: Okay. We're done.	20	Commonwealth	
21	(Whereupon the deposition ended at	21	of Massachusetts	
22	5:03 p.m.)	22	My Commission Expires: 4/21/2007	_
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7				
8	STEVEN J. FOX			
9				
10	Subscribed and sworn to and before me			
11	this day of, 20			
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15	Notary Public			
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